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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest 181 at Indy 500 this Weekend

INDIANAPOLIS (May 26) – Indiana State Excise Police officers working around the Indianapolis Motor Speedway this weekend arrested 181 people on 214 charges, up from 125 charges last year.

Most of those arrested were charged with alcohol or drug-related offenses.

Excise officers patrolled inside and near the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Most arrests were made on Carburetion Day and on the night before the race along Georgetown Road.

Last year, excise officers issued 125 tickets, most for illegal possession or consumption of alcohol.

The following is a list of some of the charges this weekend:

- 137 Illegal Possession or Consumption of Alcohol
- 20 Possession of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Marijuana or Possession of Paraphernalia
- 12 Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor
- 12 Possession of False Identification
- 9 Public Indecency or Public Nudity
- 8 Juvenile Possession of Tobacco
- 6 Furnishing Tobacco to a Juvenile
- 3 Resisting Law Enforcement
- 2 Public Intoxication
- 2 False Informing
- 1 Battery on Law Enforcement
- 1 Disorderly Conduct
- 1 Warrant Arrest

"The Indianapolis 500 is an event where public safety is a primary focus for State Excise Police," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "With large amounts of alcohol consumed this weekend, officers must monitor activities closely so everyone has an enjoyable, but safe time."

"State Excise officers are committed to ensuring the safety of young people by focusing on an important goal of the agency's mission, which is controlling the access of alcohol to minors."

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.